

**TOY DISTRICT/DOWNTOWN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OCTOBER 27, 2009
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS

Present: Ernie Doizaki, Donald Kanner, Matt Klein, Larry Rauch, Michael Tansey, and Paul Vert.

Absent: Howard Klein, Richard Gardner, Richard Meruelo, Bill Shinbane, and Mark Shinbane.

STAFF: Celina Mancia, Raquel King, Estela Lopez and Vicky McCormick.

CONSULTANTS: Qathryn Brehm, Ken Coelho and Don Steier.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vert called the meeting to order with a quorum at 12:11pm.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Lopez introduced new employee Celina Mancia, District Services/Operations Manager. Lopez informed the Board that Mancia would be working hand in hand with McCormick to solve issues and work with City departments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rauch made a motion to approve the September 22, 2009 minutes, and M. Klein seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

IV. FINANCE

Toy:

Coelho reported that for the month of September, the Toy District received a total of \$7,800 in current year assessment revenue plus penalties and interest. Coelho stated that expenses are in line with the budget; Toy is \$5,000 under budget for the month.

Ending cash for the month of September is \$189,000. Toy is still owed \$23,000 in assessment revenue. Toy budgeted \$11,400 for assessment delinquencies and we will need to increase that amount; currently Toy is projecting to end the year with \$14,000 of cash, however, with the increased delinquency Toy is more likely going to end the year with a \$0 cash balance.

DID:

Coelho reported that DID collected a total of \$15,700 for the month of September; \$14,000 collected was from current year assessments. DID is under budget \$6,600 for the month. Ending cash for the month of September is \$488,764. Coelho stated that DID is owed \$180,000 in assessment revenue; \$80,000 was budgeted for delinquencies. Coelho reported that there is \$50,000 in the reserve account, and DID is currently projecting to end the year with \$117,000 cash. However, that number could decrease due to an increase in the delinquency.

Coelho stated that historically all assessment revenue is collected by September or October, and the September collections in both Toy and DID are much less than last year. Coelho informed the Board that there is a good chance that the BIDs will not receive any additional assessment revenue through December 2009.

Coelho stated that the financials for the month of October will show a delinquency amount of \$100,000 in DID and \$23,000 in Toy. Coelho also mentioned that the City charges the BID 2% for assessments billed, and he would ask the City to charge based on assessments collected instead of billed.

V. OPERATIONS

Toy:

McCormick stated that since implementing the colored trash bags in the District, the number of trash bags collected continue to decrease. McCormick stated that there are still issues of illegal dumping that the BID is working on.

McCormick reported that 17 instances of graffiti were removed. Some of the graffiti identified was not removed because it was too high up or on roll down doors that couldn't be accessed in the daytime.

McCormick reported that public safety numbers are consistent with prior months; however, overall responses have decreased from prior years. Drug activity, illegal vending, and loitering increased in September.

DID:

The number of trash bags collected in DID increased in September due to illegal dumping; the BID public safety and maintenance teams are attempting to track where the trash is coming from so that warning notices and citations can be issued. Frank Martinez of the Bureau of Street Services will be training the BID public safety officers on the proper steps to dealing with illegal dumpers.

McCormick credited the Safer Cities Initiative for the decrease in individuals blocking the sidewalk in DID. Loitering in DID increased slightly mainly due to loiterers sitting on fences behind construction sites.

McCormick reported that the Big Belly trash receptacle on San Pedro Street will be relocated in front of Little Tokyo Lofts. McCormick also informed the Board that there would be huge trash hauling cost savings if the BID purchased Big Belly receptacles to place throughout the District. McCormick stated that two weeks of trash can fit into each receptacle, therefore hauling is bi-weekly instead of weekly, and costs decrease. McCormick also mentioned that the Big Belly would prevent merchants from illegally dumping their personal trash into the BID receptacle.

Lopez stated that the Big Belly receptacles are expensive. CCEA would request that the CRA pay for half of the receptacles.

McCormick informed the Board that public safety officer Lt. Ruiz was battered by an individual at 4th and Towne Ave. Lt. Ruiz witnessed a fight and attempted to intervene when the suspect started repeatedly hitting him knocking him unconscious. Lt. Ruiz was transported to U.S. Healthworks and was released shortly after with considerable bruising.

Computerized District Mapping System:

Mancia reported that she is currently inputting information into the system and that it should be up and running in a few weeks. Mancia also informed the Board that CCEA is working with LAPD Central Area college age Explorers to work as data entry interns.

M. Klein asked if Board members would have access. Mancia informed the Board that they would have access to read only.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Lopez reported that it was discovered that drug activity and prostitution have been going on inside the self cleaning toilet on San Pedro Street in front of URM. Within a day, the toilet was closed indefinitely for maintenance.

Lopez informed the Board that Richard Gardner, Alameda Produce, contacted her upset about the overgrown trees around his property. Lopez reported that there are 42 trees around the property, and 8 to 10 of the trees have foliage that blocks the lighting. The City is on a 17 year tree trimming delay. Richard Gardner obtained an estimate from a private landscaper for \$16,800.

Lopez stated that there are also LADWP wires blocked by the foliage, which was reported to CD14 who will be contacting the LADWP to discuss the blockage and try to get the trees trimmed.

Lopez informed the Board that there will be a street closure on San Pedro Street between 5th & 6th Streets on Thursday, October 29, 2009. 200 elected officials are anticipated to attend. The event is from 8am to 1pm. Lopez stated that she contacted both

the Mayor's office and CD14 to express great dissatisfaction with the fact that no one consulted the business community who will be impacted by the closure, and that basically the business community doesn't matter.

Lopez stated that there is no detour information, businesses will lose business, and employees won't be able to get to work. Lopez stated that she would email new information as she received it. She also stated that she will attend the Public Works Commission on October 28th to bring up this issue.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT- The meeting of the Board was adjourned at 12:50pm.